

# The Grapevine

December 2025

Volume 42, Number 4

## President's Message

Let's Party!

December is upon us, the Healdsburg Plaza Holiday Tree is in place and the reservoirs are slowly filling up with much needed rain.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our Holiday Party at Jimmy's Lakeside Grill on December 4.

Many thanks to members who have already responded generously to our Healdsburg AAUW Scholarship Fund. \$50,000 for our 50th Anniversary is our goal with 75% participation.

Warm Holiday Greetings to you and your families!

**Nancy Jane Andrews**

Healdsburg AAUW President



## Speaker Series

Join Us for the December 8<sup>th</sup> AAUW Speaker Series!

### Impacts of Climate Change on World Health

Our December Speaker Series features John Mihalik, MD, a distinguished Family Physician, ethicist, and climate activist known for his passionate commitment to health and the environment. With an engaging introduction by fellow climate activist and AAUW member **Tyra Benoit**, this presentation is sure to inform, motivate, and spark meaningful conversation in our community.



### Why Attend?

- Discover how climate change is impacting health worldwide—and right here at home.
- Learn from Dr. Mihalik's real-world experiences, from rural clinics to global outreach.
- Hear inspiring stories of activism and advocacy for climate justice and health equity.
- Connect with local community members who care about making a difference.



**John Mihalik, MD** brings a unique perspective as both a healthcare provider and climate leader. Trained in bioethics during his time as a Jesuit priest, Dr. Mihalik's career spans rural clinics caring for indigent farm workers, leadership in hospital ethics, and international service providing care in the Dominican Republic near the Haitian border. As an Al Gore-trained Climate Reality Leader, he is dedicated to educating the public.

### Event Details

- Date: Monday, December 8
- Time: 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (Presentation begins at noon)
- Location: Abel De Luna Community Center, 1557 Healdsburg Avenue, Healdsburg
- Bring: Your own brown bag lunch if you wish
- Stay after the talk for updates on AAUW's latest chapter happenings!

### RSVP and Invitation

We'd love to see you there! Please RSVP by contacting **Celeste Plaister** at [celesteplaister@gmail.com](mailto:celesteplaister@gmail.com).

Non-member guests are invited. Bring friends, share the inspiration, and join in the conversation about the future of our health and our planet!

### Michelle Regan

Healdsburg AAUW Speaker Series Chair



## Winter Cultural Event

Hold Wednesday Jan 28th 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. for our winter cultural event at the Charles Schultz Museum. We have arranged a special tour called "Day in the Life of Charles Schultz". As we'll be celebrating the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Peanuts so reliving a typical day in the life of Charles M Shultz will be extra special!

Our Museum orientation includes a history of Shultz's passion - the development of Redwood Empire Ice Arena (Snoopy's Home Ice), and details of Schulz's daily routine.

We will see where Schulz spent most of his workday—in his art and business studio—meticulously recreated in the Schulz Museum. Listen to Schulz's own words as he describes the importance of his daily routine. A trip around the campus caps off the tour.

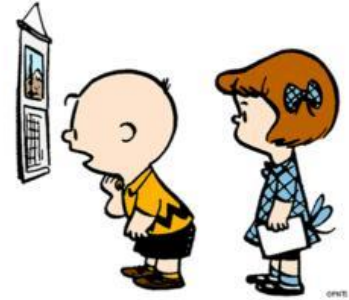
Then, after the tour, our buffet lunch will be in a private room at the Warm Puppy Café.

Cost is \$55 for the tour and lunch. Please RSVP to **Liz Loebel** at [lizloebel@gmail.com](mailto:lizloebel@gmail.com) by Jan 10. You can mail me a check made out to **Liz Loebel**, 219 Ferrero Dr, Hbg or Venmo me at **Elizabeth Stott Loebel**.

Once we know who is coming, we will email you to arrange carpools.

**Liz Loebel** and **Judith Olney**

Co-Chairs AAUW Cultural Events



## Mission Based Programs

### Future Prep

The first career panels happened at Healdsburg High School on November 5 & 6. Thanks to **Betsy Hafner**, the committee chair, for her lead in organizing this event that helps students explore career choices and understand the pathway, education, and life skills necessary to attain that career. **Jackie Sherman, Fay Mark, Pam Jones, Denny Martin, and Catherine Mock** helped to recruit people for the panels and moderate the event.

We had 30 panel members with fascinating careers present to all the freshmen at Healdsburg High School.



**Catherine Mock**

Mission Based Programs Director



## TTAG Visits Sonoma County Wildlife Rescue: Exploring Wildlife, Conservation, and Community

Deer, raccoons, skunks, opossums, foxes roaming your yard? Coyotes or bobcats near pets or livestock? Found a sick, injured, or orphaned animal? There's one place to call: the Sonoma County Wildlife Rescue (SCWR). On October 25, 2025 sixteen TTAG members and three parent drivers/chaperones embarked on an inspiring educational trip to SCWR, where they explored local wildlife, learned how injured animals are rehabilitated, and discovered practical ways humans and animals can coexist more peacefully. During the visit, participants gained firsthand insight into the habitats and behaviors of local species. The SCWR tour guide explained how animals often become injured—frequently due to human activity—and walked the group through the thoughtful process of rescue, rehabilitation, and, whenever possible, release back into the wild.



TTAG members also learned about a variety of volunteer opportunities at the center, opening doors for students interested in future hands-on conservation work. The experience encouraged everyone to reflect on the impact humans have on wildlife and to consider the positive changes individuals can make. Of course, the day included lighter moments as well—petting the resident goats, sharing a picnic lunch, and building friendships throughout the experience. The field trip was both educational and energizing, offering students a window into the impact community organizations like SCWR have on the well-being of local wildlife and the community that surrounds it.



TTAG President, Valeria, thanking our SCWR tour guide



Sally and her mom petting a resident goat.



Lunch at SCWR after the tour

**Karla Rosen**

AAUW Healdsburg TTAG Co-Chair and Advisor  
AAUW California TTAG Chair



## Scholarships

### Faith St. Amant's Story

#### 2020 recipient of the AAUW Healdsburg Branch High School Scholarship

I am deeply grateful to AAUW for the scholarship I received in 2020, which helped fund my first year of college and set me on a path toward pursuing my passions in science. I graduated from Windsor High School and went on to attend the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), where I majored in Molecular, Cell, and Developmental Biology with a minor in Biomedical Research.

The scholarship provided me with crucial support as I navigated the financial challenges of college, allowing me more time to focus on my studies and my first steps into research. While balancing night and weekend shifts at my on-campus job to cover tuition and housing, I was able to dive deeply into hands-on molecular biology research. These experiences cemented my love for scientific discovery and shaped my career goals.

After graduating from UCLA in 2024, I joined the post-baccalaureate program at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center in Seattle. Here, I have continued to build my research skills while investigating questions at the intersection of stem cell biology, cancer, and translational medicine. Leading my own independent projects and contributing meaningfully to the scientific community with my work has provided me with the confidence and skills I need as I prepare to pursue a PhD in cancer biology.

Looking back, the AAUW scholarship was more than financial support -- it was an affirmation that my goals were achievable and that others believed in my potential. I hope my story can inspire current and future high school graduates to pursue their passions boldly, and I am endlessly thankful to the AAUW members whose generosity continues to make a lasting impact.

Sincerely,

Faith St. Amant



## In Memoriam

**Catherine Anderson**, the longtime wife and partner of Dr. David Anderson, passed away in July. The two of them were stationed in Thailand and Burma during the Vietnam War, arriving together in Healdsburg in 1973.

While Dr. Anderson built a broad and successful family practice in town, and continues to push for health care solutions even in his retirement, **Cathy** stayed busy: **a founding member of the local AAUW**, on the Geyserville School Board, participating in book clubs, garden clubs, pétanque teams, bridge clubs and the Healdsburg Historical Society. [As her obituary states](#), "She was most interested in her large family, always welcoming them with her warm smile, good food, and of course her famous graham cracker brownies."

A Celebration of Life will be held at 1pm on Dec. 6, her 80th birthday, at Trentadue Winery in Geyserville.

Submitted by **Kim Alexander**



If you are aware of any member who is ill, has had an operation or an accident, has passed away or had a close family member pass away, please notify [Holly Schatz](#) and [Kim Alexander](#) so that a card can be sent from Healdsburg AAUW and communicate as appropriate. Email: [hollypschatz@gmail.com](mailto:hollypschatz@gmail.com). Phone: 415-305-4559 and [kimeliza28@yahoo.com](mailto:kimeliza28@yahoo.com) 607-342-7658.

Published monthly, except in July and August. Please submit articles and announcements in email text, Google Docs, or Word and images in .jpeg by the 15th of the month prior to the issue in which you want them included. The Grapevine is available to the general public, therefore please be cautious about including personal information. Send articles to [Carrie Paulik cap53t@gmail.com](mailto:Carrie Paulik cap53t@gmail.com)